

transfer of technology from the public sector to the private sector, and the return of such property and technology to productive use.

A prime example of this activity can be found in East Tennessee. The closure of major portions of Oak Ridge stranded a very skilled workforce and abandoned a great deal of infrastructure. Working together on a regional basis, local governments, businesses and members of the community have been able to return parts of Oak Ridge to productive use, and facilitate the transfer of technology to the private sector, bringing back jobs and investment to the region.

These efforts in East Tennessee should serve as a national model to promote new opportunities for brownfields redevelopment around the country.

REMEMBERING NEW MEXICO'S
RICHARD ROCCO

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, last month New Mexico lost a real hero. Richard Rocco, an Army Medic in the Vietnam War who received the Medal of Honor for rescuing severely wounded fellow crewmen from the wreckage of a downed helicopter under enemy fire, died of cancer on October 31 at his home in San Antonio, Texas. He was 63.

On May 24, 1970, Mr. Rocco, a sergeant, was aboard a medical evacuation helicopter that was shot down on a mission to remove wounded South Vietnamese troops besieged near the village of Katum. Mr. Rocco suffered back injuries, a broken hip and a broken wrist, and the other four crew members were shot. Brave and determined, Mr. Rocco went back to the helicopter and carried the co-pilot, the crew chief and another medic to cover, one at a time, crossing 20 yards of open ground under a hail of fire, his hands and face burned by flames engulfing the helicopter. The next day, two American helicopters were shot down trying to evacuate the crewmen, who had called in artillery and air strikes on their own position to turn back an assault by North Vietnamese troops. However, all five crew members were rescued on that second day.

The commander of the First Cavalry Division visited Mr. Rocco at the hospital and told him he had been recommended for the Medal of Honor. He heard nothing else about it until 1974, when he was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and was told he would receive the medal, the nation's highest award for valor.

Mr. Rocco had not known that the co-pilot he saved, Lt. Lee Caubarreaux, had been lobbying in his behalf. In March 1971, while Mr. Caubarreaux was preparing for a medical retirement in Texas, the Medal of Honor recommendation was mailed to him by a warrant officer in the First Cavalry Division awards office in South Vietnam who had found it in a desk drawer.

Mr. Caubarreaux appealed to Army authorities to approve the award, and then recounted Mr. Rocco's efforts to Senator Russell Long of Louisiana, Mr. Caubarreaux's home state. Those efforts finally prevailed when President Gerald R. Ford presented the Medal of Honor

to Mr. Rocco on December 12, 1974. The medal requires even generals to salute its recipients.

Louis Richard Rocco, a native of the Barelmas neighborhood of Albuquerque, retired from the Army as a chief warrant officer in 1978 after 22 years of military service. He re-enlisted in 1991, in the Persian Gulf War, and spent six months at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, recruiting military personnel.

Mr. Rocco worked extensively as a veterans counselor. In 1978 he started the Vet Center on Fourth Street which created a host of services and programs for veterans. Besides the Vet Center, Mr. Rocco started a shelter for homeless veterans, a nursing home in Truth or Consequences and tuition waivers for veterans attending state-run colleges. During the administration of New Mexico Governor Toney Anaya he was named the director of the Veterans Service Commission. In recent years, even as his health failed, he also spoke to schoolchildren about drug abuse on behalf of Vietnam Veterans of America.

As a testament to the impact that Mr. Rocco has had on his fellow New Mexicans, on October 12 of this year a South Valley Park next to the Westside Community Center was named after him: The Richard Rocco Medal of Honor Park and a stone monument placed there in his honor. Plans are also underway for a bronze bust of Mr. Rocco to be made and placed inside the old Armijo School near the park—where he went to school growing up. Although seriously ill, Mr. Rocco came to the ceremony organized by veterans throughout New Mexico. He called the naming of the park "an honor that I hold above presidents and legislators, because these are my people. For them to honor me, it makes me feel so good."

In addition to his wife, Maria, three children, five grandchildren, his mother, one brother and four sisters survive Mr. Rocco. I extend my deep condolences to the Rocco family and all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with them.

Mr. Speaker, as the only member of the New Mexico congressional delegation serving on the Veterans Affairs Committee, I wanted to inform my colleagues about this heroic and extraordinary man. Richard Rocco's historic and noble acts have given New Mexicans reason to hope, reason to be proud, and reason to champion the veteran. I ask my colleagues to join with me to pay tribute to Richard Rocco for his courageous actions, on that day so long ago.

HONORING IOWA VOLUNTEER

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Alyssa Hall from Epworth, Iowa. A high school student, Alyssa attended my 2001 Youth Summit in Dubuque.

During the youth summit each year, spending a full day with young Iowans encourages me about the future of our state and nation. Alyssa Hall is part of an outstanding group of students who have an enormous amount of ability and potential to make the world that surrounds them a better place.

I challenged those students attending the summit in Dubuque to become active in their local areas and to let me know about their experiences. I asked them to perform some sort of service to enhance the communities they call home.

I was very pleased to hear recently from Alyssa about her volunteer experiences with the Epworth Gateway Gardeners, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making their hometown a more beautiful place to live.

Alyssa embraced my challenge and took action. Throughout the spring and summer months Alyssa joined the Gateway Gardeners in creating a butterfly garden near a new town walking path. She worked hard, got a little dirt under her nails and especially enjoyed tending to an area with pink petunias, Epworth's official flower.

It is clear that Alyssa found the time she spent with the Epworth Gateway Gardeners to be both enjoyable and rewarding. I am sure her friends, neighbors and fellow volunteers are very appreciative of her time and effort.

I want to publicly thank Alyssa for her hard work. I hope she will continue her dedication to community service in the future. She is an outstanding young American, and I am especially proud of her efforts to make Iowa a better place.

HONORING EMMITT J. SMITH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary athlete, philanthropist and role model, Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt J. Smith III, for his exceptional achievements on and off the playing field.

On Sunday, October 27, 2002, Smith made history by becoming the National Football League's all-time leading rusher, surpassing late Chicago Bears great Walter Payton. With a powerful, 11-yard carry against the Seattle Seahawks, Smith pushed his career total in rushing yardage to the 16,728 mark, moving him two yards ahead of the record that Payton (16,726) set in 1987.

However, his achievement as the NFL's all-time top rusher is just one of many accomplishments that Smith can boast. Throughout his 13-year career in professional football, he has compiled an outstanding resume of accomplishments as a star running back and valued teammate. He has led the Dallas Cowboys to three Super Bowl titles while also claiming Super Bowl MVP honors. In 1993, he won the National Football League Most Valuable Player Award.

Smith is the winner of four NFL rushing titles and is the first player in NFL history to rush for over 1,000 yards in 11 consecutive seasons. He is also the NFL's career rushing touchdown leader. What's more, he has accomplished all of these goals while wearing a Dallas Cowboys uniform, making him a hometown hero for the Thirtieth Congressional District of Texas and the entire Dallas-Fort Worth area.

His performances on the field are only overshadowed by one thing: his incredible public service off the field. Smith has become